

the chronicle

Supporting role

How local landmark starred in hit Sherlock Holmes film

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Memory Lane

Stars who lit up our theatres with music and laughter

Page 12



Team hits gold

Success on the mat for Kidderminster judo club

Page 31



£45,940 grant is landed by town club

KIDDERMINSTER Tennis Club has landed a £45,940 grant to improve its facilities.

The money is Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund – part of a £135 million programme aimed at spreading the magic of the Olympic and Paralympic Games across communities.

The money will allow the club to upgrade its changing rooms and to install floodlights at its outdoor courts.

Club president Peter Young said: "The grant is the best start to 2012 we could have received and is a testament to the hard work put in by committee members."

"We have always wanted lights but they are so expensive that it was a long-term aim for us. Now we can have them a lot sooner than we thought."

"I am pleased that we are really making progress at Kidderminster Tennis Club. Our new coach Tony Wright is doing a great job and our facilities are set for a major upgrade."

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier said: "I am delighted the club has been awarded this money."

Thugs barge in to house

THUGS barged their way into a man's house in Staite Drive, Cookley, Kidderminster, after knocking on the door.

They threatened the man and searched his home but fled empty-handed. The man was shaken but unhurt. It happened at about 9.25pm on Sunday.

The thugs were in their late 20s or early 30s. One was dark-skinned, slim and about 6ft 2ins tall. He had a goatee beard and a black leather jacket with metal studs. The other was black, 5ft 4ins, stocky, with a grey hooded top.

Witnesses should call 0300 333 3000, quoting incident 215-N-120212.

COUNCIL'S PLEDGE IN WAKE OF JOBS BLOW

By Heather Large

COUNCIL bosses have pledged to do all they can to help struggling businesses in Kidderminster in the wake of a double jobs blow for the town.

Luxury boat builder Sealine International announced it is to shed 72 jobs – just days after Kidderminster-based carpet firm Brintons revealed plans to cut 150 jobs, mainly at its Stourport Road factory.

The firms are two of the district's biggest employers and leader of Wyre Forest District Council John Campion said the job losses would have a "huge impact" on the workers.

He said: "It will be a big blow to those affected. But Wyre Forest has a lot to offer businesses and we are doing all we can to help them through this difficult time," he added.

Police station opening times to be reduced

THE opening hours of two police stations in Wyre Forest are to be cut.

The move will mean the front counter at Stourport police station, now open Monday to Saturday, will be open to the public for just four days.

The opening hours of the counter at Kidderminster police station will also be reduced in the evenings and at weekends.

West Mercia Police says all police stations would remain fully operational and no officers or staff would be made redundant. The force needs to save around £30 million over the next four years, with £17.4m in the first two.

The new opening hours have been drawn up according to the demand in the different areas, bosses said. The Stourport base will be open to the public Tuesday to Friday from 10am until 2pm.

Kidderminster will shut two hours earlier at 8pm. New Sunday opening hours will be 10am to 4pm.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Purcell said: "The change to public service counter opening times will not affect local policing, and all police stations will remain operational. We want to make sure we offer a good service to the public and be as accessible as possible."

New and existing businesses can get advice as well as information about grants from the council.

And Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier said he was planning to host a jobs fair to help people find work. He said: "Every job lost is a tragedy for the families and individuals concerned. The economic situation in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world will inevitably have some effect on all our communities."

"However, work continues to try to stimulate economic growth in Wyre Forest and to attract more businesses and employment opportunities. Next week I will be announcing details of the Wyre Forest Job Fair which I have organised for March 29, and I hope that this can help."

The latest jobs blow comes just three months after the 200-year-old Brintons announced that 70 jobs would be going with the closure of its town centre site, while luxury boat builder Sealine announced plans to axe up to 37 jobs at its Worcester Road headquarters.

Prospects

Bill Griffiths, Sealine's managing director said: "In order to keep our business strong we need to keep our overheads in line with demand and to take on board the impact that the global economic situation is having on the leisure marine market."

"We have taken the decision to cut our workforce in order to protect the long-term prospects of the company."

A Brintons spokesman said progress had been made turning the business around, but further changes were needed.

"A necessary part of these plans is a consultation process to consider proposals for 150 redundancies across the business globally," he said.

Some of the job losses will be in China.

Dancers in step for festival



Chloe Edwards, Isabel Barlow, Abby Smith, and Alice Barlow, all aged eight, and members of the Severnside School of Dancing, taking part in the festival

HUNDREDS of dancers are competing for titles at the 2012 Wyre Forest Dance Festival held daily at Stourport Civic Hall in New Street until tomorrow (Friday).

More than 800 contestants from across the West Midlands are taking part, including students from the Severnside School of Dancing in Bewdley.

Spectators are welcome, at a charge of £3 per person for adults, and £2 for children and senior citizens.

Dancing starts at 9am and finishes at around 8pm. Programmes available at £2 are now on sale from the Kidderminster Hub at Kidderminster Town Hall, or at the Stourport Civic Centre.

Raiders target homes in the night

HOME owners near Stourport were victims of a series of early-morning break-ins.

The break-ins all happened in Wilden Top in the early hours of Monday.

One resident was disturbed by her dog barking at around 2am, and looked out to see a young man in her garden.

He was white, 5ft 6ins, and wearing a light coloured jacket and dark coloured bottoms.

In the morning she found her shed had been broken into, and items including a heater and an electric leaf blower were stolen.

In addition, items were taken from the house. It's thought the woman had left her patio door open for a few minutes.

At another house, three sheds were broken into and boxes of collectable models of trucks were stolen.

At a third house, bottles of wine and a lawnmower were stolen from a shed.

Detective Constable Adam Nawarycz of West Mercia Police said: "The model trucks were particularly distinctive and we are appealing for anyone who sees them offered for sale to contact us."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 0300 333 3000 or ring the Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Queen is to visit county

THE Queen and Prince Philip are to visit Worcestershire as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

They will visit Worcester on July 11 and Michael Brinton, Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, said: "I am sure I speak on behalf of all the residents of Worcestershire when I say how delighted I am that the county has been chosen to be part of the Jubilee visit programme."

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New shop for charity after devastating fire

STAFF and volunteers have been celebrating the opening of a new charity shop in Kidderminster town centre.

The British Heart Foundation has opened a new furniture and electrical store in the town to replace one which was destroyed in a fire.

Last October, flames ripped through the shop and neighbouring Levenes furniture shop.

More than 50 firefighters fought to stop the fire spreading to other stores.

Both buildings were demolished on safety grounds following the fire which brought the town centre to a standstill.

After the blaze, the charity pledged to open a replacement store somewhere else in the town and yesterday, the Mayor of Kidderminster, Councillor Anne Hingley, was invited to cut the ribbon at its new base in Worcester Street.

Supported

The new shop sells household goods including sofas, chairs, dining sets, beds and wardrobes as well as electrical items.

The charity's area manager, Ron Humphreys, said the charity had been keen to reopen a shop in the town as soon as possible after the fire.

He added: "The opening went very well and was well supported by the Kidderminster community."

by Heather Large

"We had quite a few people through the doors and hopefully word will spread that we are back."

The shop aims to sell quality, affordable second-hand furniture and electrical items. Money raised will help the BHF fight heart disease, the UK's biggest killer. To donate items to the shop, people can visit bhf.org.uk/collection to arrange a collection.

Meanwhile bosses at Levenes are looking at moving into either the former Woolworths premises in Worcester Street or the old TJ Hughes shop in Vicar Street.

Levenes, which also has stores in Brierley Hill, Smethwick and Tyseley in Birmingham, had been operating in Kidderminster for around three years. Staff were relocated.

Orders from the Kidderminster area are being handled through the company's Brierley Hill office.



Store manager Linda Smith with Mayor of Kidderminster Councillor Anne Hingley and mayor's consort Alan Parsons at the new British Heart Foundation shop

Forestry panel to see woods

THE Wyre Forest hosts a visit by the Independent Panel on Forestry tomorrow (Friday).

It is part of the panel's tour of local forests around the country.

Ramblers have welcomed the opportunity to stress the importance of access to local woods in the region.

The panel was set up in response to the public outcry over the proposed sale of public woodland.

The Ramblers have been campaigning to ensure that freedom to enjoy woods is protected and in December last year welcomed the Panel's interim progress report, which backed public forests and the need for the same level of "gold standard" quality of access it provides, to continue.

Wyre Forest is one of the largest remaining ancient woodlands in Britain, on the border between Shropshire and Worcestershire.

It is home to a variety of wildlife, and has a large area designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It has many footpaths winding through the 6,000 acres of woodland. The Ramblers wish to see all woodland areas preserved and access improved.

Fall woman hurt

A WOMAN suffered a broken ankle and an injury to her thigh after falling from the five-storey Swan Centre car park in Blackwell Street, Kidderminster, on Friday.

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Police in alert on computer virus con

POLICE are warning people in Worcestershire about a sophisticated computer scam.

Con artists are phoning unsuspecting people to try to part them from their money.

West Mercia Police say the calls are apparently from companies telling people that their computer has a virus, but that they can cure the problem.

The conmen ask to be given remote access to their victim's computer. If they get it, they could get access to banking and other personal information.

"If you get a call like this, just hang up immediately," said Ed Roberts from West Mercia Police's hi-tech crime unit. "Don't let them have remote access to your computer and under no circumstances give them money."

"We have had reports from members of the public saying they have received these calls."

"Many have downloaded harmful software which allows the scammers to access their computers and actually install viruses, rather than removes them. They have then had to pay reputable firms a lot of money to repair the damage caused to their computer."

"People have paid up to £150 to these tricksters to fix a problem they didn't have."

Bridge's supporting role in Sherlock film

THE SEVERN Valley Railway is basking in the afterglow of the Sherlock Holmes Christmas cinema box-office hit, part of which was filmed on the line.

A bridge on the Kidderminster to Bridgnorth line had a starring role in Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows.

The film starring Robert Downey Jr as Holmes and Jude Law as Dr Watson was the most-watched film internationally, in January, with box office receipts of more than £281 million.

One of the most breathtaking moments in the film takes place on the Severn Valley Railway's best-known landmark, Victoria Bridge, over the River Severn near Arley.

Cinema audiences see Holmes push Dr Watson's new wife Mary (Kelly Reilly) from a steam train as it thunders across the 200ft iron span, in an effort to save her from the clutches of the evil despot Professor James Moriarty.

Sequences

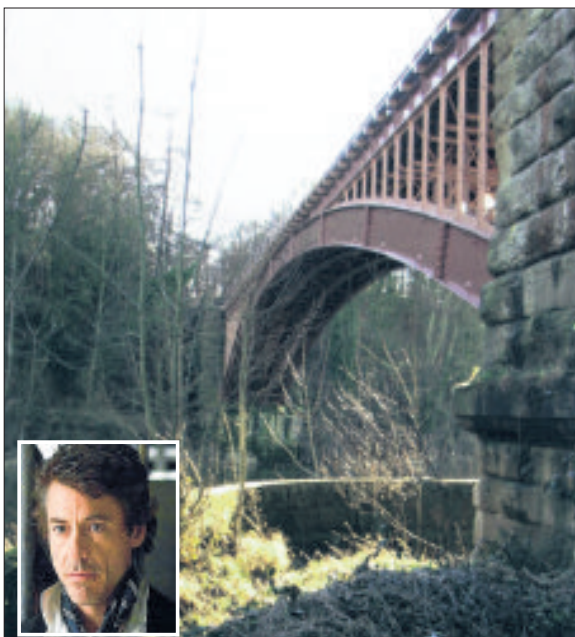
She plunges into the river, where Holmes' brother Mycroft (Stephen Fry) is waiting to fish her out. Or so it appears. But when the sequence was filmed in October 2010, there wasn't even a steam train on the bridge, and no-one was pushed from it.

Dewi Jones, the SVR's former traffic manager who

liaised with the film company, explained: "They attached a camera to the gib of a crane which was mounted on one of the railway's goods wagons, and we pushed it across the bridge with a diesel."

"As the crane came on to Victoria Bridge, the gib was swung out over the river, and the camera recorded the bridge from mid-air. Everything else, including the steam train and the lady plunging into the river, was created digitally in the studio. It's quite incredible."

Sir John Fowler's bridge, built in 1861, was the largest clear cast-iron span in the world. Other box-office hits which have used it include The Seven Per Cent Solution (1976), with Laurence Olivier and Vanessa Redgrave, and the 1978 re-make of The Thirty-Nine Steps, in which star Robert Powell is seen hanging by his arms from the giant span, as he attempts to evade the police.



The Victoria Bridge, which was featured in the film starring Robert Downey Jr, inset

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thechronicle Glades centre hosts rescue training



The rescue team at the Glades Leisure Arena where they have been carrying out essential training

THE Severn Area Rescue Association is carrying out important training at Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Arena. One session was being held today (Thursday) and another will be held on February 23.

Water assessments for both new crew members and the existing operational team are taking place.

The rescue team provides search and rescue services

around the clock, every day of the year. They also work with other rescue agencies such as RAF search and rescue. Their operational area is not only the Severn estuary, but includes the middle and lower sections of the Severn and the rivers Avon, Teme, Wye, Monnow, Ebbw, Bristol Avon and Usk. They also have lifeboat stations at Beachley and Sharpness, and rescue stations at Tewkesbury and Wyre Forest.

Firm's £2.5m investment

A KIDDERMINSTER steel specialist plans to extend its product range following an investment of £2.5 million.

The new plate line at John Tainton in Frederick Road, Hoo Farm Industrial estate, enables it to process material up to 12.5mm thick.

It complements its existing capabilities.

The company says the investment will allow more customers to access its industry-renowned standards in

quality and service in heavy plate up to 12.5mm.

John Tainton has 55 staff at Kidderminster where the company has been based since 1979. There are also three satellite sales branches.

Group managing director Matt Hall said the investment at its Kidderminster head office offered significant benefits to its customers who will now be able to obtain a full range of products.

He added that the investment would allow John Tainton to move into new markets with an extended product

range during 2012. The investment has been commissioned in the year the family-owned business celebrates its 200th anniversary in the steel business.

Two more employees have been taken on with the opening of the new line but more are expected to be recruited as sales are generated.

With more than three decades' of experience in steel stockholding, John Tainton now has the capability of distributing in excess of 100,000 tonnes a year.

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Sky's the limit for TV martial arts hopefuls



Film star Zara Phythian, far left, leads the Russell Perks class in an audition in front of the cameras

MARTIAL arts students in Kidderminster are hoping to land parts in an all-action series on Sky TV.

The programme makers auditioned the tae kwon do students at Russell Perks Martial Arts Academy in New Road, in front of a camera crew.

They were joined by the star of the show, Zara Phythian.

Zara, 13 times world champion, three times a Guinness world record holder

and a close friend of Russell Perks, is now a noted actress. She has the lead role in what will be a four-part mini series, The Gauntlet, which will hit the screens in the summer.

Students from all classes were given the opportunity to perform in a two-hour screen fighting workshop.

Mr Perks said: "Some 70 students took part in the audition, and within the next few weeks the lucky seven students who are chosen will go on to film some awesome fight scenes with Zara."

Zara has recently promoted her new film, The Hike, which was premiered in Leicester Square, London.

Mr Perks said "This is a huge opportunity for me and my students. Everyone put in an amazing performance and I can't wait to see the final result."

The Russell Perks academy runs classes in tae kwon do, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, and fitness.

For information on the TV release and about the academy, go to www.rpmaa.com

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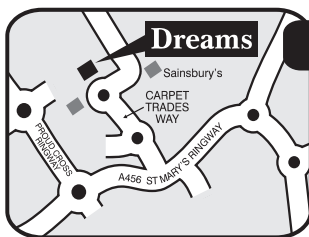
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Appeal goes out to keep charity raft race afloat



A team taking part in the Kidderminster raft race which raises thousands of pounds for charity

THE Kidderminster Raft Race which has been held every May for more than 25 years is in jeopardy this year, the town's Lions Club is warning.

The club which organises the race, needs to find a new launch point this year.

The race is along the Severn from Arley to Stourport. The traditional launch point from the west side of the river at Arley is no longer available.

The club says a request to Severn Trent for use of the facilities at Trimp-

ley reservoir has been turned down, and the search for a suitable alternative is now urgent.

The race raises around £12,000 for charity each year. In recent years the main beneficiary has been the county air ambulance, with other charities selected by competing crews. The Lions' charity fund takes the rest.

A suitable launch site needs vehicular access, space to park about 60 vehicles and trailers, and access to the river.

A gently-sloping bank would be ideal.

The Lions club say they would look after all aspects of insurance, marshalling, and such details as provision of temporary toilets.

They would carry out a risk assessment to ensure the event was run as safely as possible.

The whole event at the launch site would run from around 8.30 to noon on a Sunday morning.

If anyone knows of a site that might be suitable, they are asked to call 0845 833 7483 or contact the club via www.kidderminsterlions.org.uk

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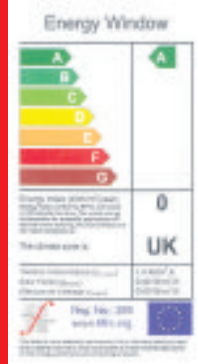
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Plea over park fight

POLICE are appealing for information about a fight in Kidderminster in which two women were injured.

It happened in an alley to the entrance of White Wickes park, near Franche Primary School, Chestnut Grove, on Monday, February 6 at around 9am. It involved two white women, one in her 20s and the other in her 30s. Both had minor injuries.

Sarah Turner of West Mercia Police said: "People may have seen two women fighting or heard verbal abuse being exchanged."

Witnesses are asked to contact her on 0300 333 3000, quoting 31-N-060212, or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Crackdown over speeding

TWO new mobile speed cameras have started operating this week on the A449 in Kidderminster as part of a Community Concern speed enforcement programme.

Residents have raised fears at PACT meetings and through the local policing team about traffic speed on Chester Road South and Wolverhampton Road.

Data collected by the Safer Roads Partnership on both sections of the A449 show drivers are not keeping to the speed limit and support the need for action to be taken. The information collected on Chester Road South shows 66 per cent of vehicles exceed the 30mph speed limit and 15 per cent travel above 38.7mph.

On Wolverhampton Road, 69 per cent of drivers exceed the 30mph limit and 15 per cent travel above 39.5mph.

To address the concerns, two new mobile

speed enforcement sites were launched on Monday. They will operate for a minimum period of six months.

Further data about speeds will be collected at both to assess the impact of enforcement. It is hoped that the presence of a mobile speed camera will improve compliance and the safety of the road for all users.

Katy Jenkins, of the Safer Roads Partnership in West Mercia, said: "We are able to respond to requests for speed enforcement from local people through our Community Concern programme."

Response

"It is clear that local people are worried about speeds on both Chester Road South and Wolverhampton Road and they have raised these concerns with the local policing team at PACT meetings."

"In response to these concerns, we are now launching two mobile enforcement sites

on the A449 to reduce the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit."

Jon Fraser, Worcestershire County Council's customer and community manager, said: "Speed limits exist for a reason, to keep all road-users and pedestrians safe."

"Anyone travelling at speeds over the designated limits is putting themselves and others in danger, as well as breaking the law."

Mike Digger, traffic management adviser at West Mercia Police, said: "Both Chester Road South and Wolverhampton Road are locations that were raised at PACT meetings by local residents who were concerned that speeds in these areas were affecting their quality of life and endangering road users."

"Investigations of the sites has shown that the residents were right to be concerned and we will now work alongside our partner agencies to ensure that the residents' concerns are addressed."

Lee tees up the laughs



Captain of the golf club Paul Massey welcomes comedian Lee Wilson

THERE were plenty of laughs at Kidderminster Golf Club international comedian Lee Wilson swung into town.

Lee, from Stourbridge, has travelled the length and breadth of the UK and toured the world entertaining passengers on ocean-going liners.

He has starred alongside such stars as Stan Boardman, Frank Carson, Roy Walker, Jim Bowen and many others for four years the ITVs Comedians show.

He won New Faces in 1976 and won comedian of the year in 1979 and starred with Jasper Carrott on stage in Birmingham.

He said "I love to entertain, whether it's in front of thousands or just a hundred. The pleasure for me is to hear the laughter and see the smiles on people's faces."

Paul Massey said the club was lucky to be able to book him for Friday night's entertainment as he was in constant demand. It was agreed by all that the night was a complete success.

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Natalie's chance to help world's poorest children



Making a difference – Natalie Page of Wolverley

SOME of the world's poorest children will be helped by a young Wolverley woman who has won a place on an international charity programme.

Natalie Page is among 500 people from across the UK who will work for a charity of their choice full-time for two months or part-time for four months, supported by the Vodafone Foundation.

She won a place on the Vodafone World of Difference programme.

More than 5,000 people registered interest for the programme which will see placements start in March.

Natalie has been chosen to spend four months working part-time with Molly and Paul's Childcare Foundation, a charity that helps destitute children in Uganda.

Farming

She will fundraise for a farm schooling project with the aim of feeding 2,500 children an egg and a glass of milk a week.

Natalie, a part-time waitress who is also studying at the Open University, said: "I can't wait to get started. I'm looking forward to raising much needed funds through different projects."

"I would like to make a big change to the farming

project as I believe in self-sufficiency."

This is the third year that the Vodafone Foundation has delivered a UK World of Difference programme, giving 500 people the chance to make a difference.

Last year, charities from all corners of the UK benefited and 79 per cent of people who took part have stayed connected to their charity, giving the UK's third sector much needed support.

The Vodafone World of Difference programme, delivered by the Vodafone Foundation, is open to anyone over 18 in the UK and the Channel Islands who has the passion, drive and commitment to donate themselves to a charity.

Taking part involved finding the right charity to suit their interests, skills and experience.

Stitch up a day at castle

HARTLEBURY Castle Preservation Trust holds an embroidery workshop on March 3, and people taking part can tour the castle.

The workshop will include a lecture by Dr Lynn Hulse and an opportunity for practical work.

No previous experience is necessary. For further information contact Virginia Wagstaff at v_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk or 01299 250883.

Reliving wartime memories

BEWDLEY residents are invited to reminisce about times gone by when a church hosts a community event.

A Trip Down Memory Lane takes place at All Saints Church, Kidderminster Road, on Monday, from 10am-noon. The theme for the event will be songs from the musicals and wartime favourites. For more information contact Elaine Halford-Bishop on 07814 594443. Entrance is free and refreshments will be provided.

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NEWS
in briefSporty residents
to jog for charity

SPORTY residents in the Wyre Forest district are being urged to take part in a sponsored jog to raise funds for charity.

The British Heart Foundation will host its traditional Wyre Forest Jog on March 11 and is urging people to get involved.

It will be held from the Wyre Forest Visitors' Centre, in Callow Hill, Bewdley, from 11am and is suitable for all age groups.

Residents will be able to choose between a 5km and 10km route.

For more information, people can call 0800 169 3672.

£250,000 on offer
for local groups

VOLUNTARY and community groups in Dudley are being encouraged to apply for a slice of £250,000 funding to support projects.

Dudley Council's five area committees are reminding groups they can apply for the money.

The five area committees of Central Dudley, North Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen are all looking to allocate funds to worthy causes. Committees are allocated £50,000 each.

Network event

THE Federation of Small Businesses in Kidderminster is hosting a business networking event at Akroyd House, Hoo Road, on February 29 at 5.30-7pm. It's free and there's no need to book. For more information call Andy Baker on 07885 036035.

Rebels at Victoria Carpets reveal strategy for the firm

THE shareholders group seeking to take control of Kidderminster carpet group Victoria have revealed details of their future strategy for the business.

They say the new directors they propose would undertake a full strategic review of the business.

Former chairman Alexander Anton who is leading the group said: "Our strategy is based upon growing the company - both in the UK and Australia."

No strategic opportunity is being ruled in or out. The key aim is to develop and enhance the business to reduce the unacceptable gap between the market valuation and net asset value."

Mr Anton was responding to a ferocious assault on the rebel shareholders by the bosses of the company.

Control

The consortium he leads is calling on investors to remove chairman Nikki Beckett and director Peter Jensen.

The group wants to replace them with Mr Anton - a member of the firm's founding family - Geoff Wilding and Sir Bryan Nicholson as directors, and Lady Katherine Innes Ker as chairman. This would give the consortium overall control.

The consortium has called a shareholder meeting at the office of law firm Wragge & Co in Birmingham on March 6.

The board of directors is urging shareholders to vote against the rebels, saying

by Tim Spiers

they have delivered growth in profits and dividend payouts. The board claims Mr Anton has tried to take the company private on several occasions and resigned as chairman in 2010 after failing to win any support for his re-election.

The board also says that Geoffrey Wilding, a director of Flooring Brands, approached Victoria in 2009 proposing a merger, but was rejected by the board.

The battle has split the Anton family which founded the business more than a century ago.

The consortium says it controls 46 per cent of the shares and its directors would bring "fresh thinking and impetus" to the business. In response, Victoria, which employs 700 as a group, has put itself up for sale.

A spokesman for Alexander Anton said: "Putting the company up for sale in an uncertain economic climate...is likely to substantially undervalue the company and is extremely damaging to the business."



Ben Edwards, Katie Tomkins, and Jess Harris rehearsing for Guys and Dolls

Musical rocking a village

MUSIC and comedy direct from the streets of New York is lighting up a Worcestershire village, thanks to a theatre group's latest production.

The COMIC theatre company is presenting the Broadway and West End musical Guys and Dolls.

The show is being staged at Sunfield Community Theatre, in Clent, near Stourbridge.

Among the hit tunes being belted out in the show are Sit Down You're Rockin the Boat and Luck Be a Lady. COMIC's previous performances include Oklahoma, South Pacific and Fiddler on the Roof.

The run finishes on Saturday. Evening shows start at 7.30pm with tickets at £12. There will be a Saturday matinee starting at 2.30pm.

Anyone who would like to join COMIC (Comedy and Music in Clent), can email membership secretary Denise Jefferson at denise.jefferson@btinternet.com

Underage children's internet concerns

A SURVEY in the Midlands shows many underage children are using social networking websites - and nearly a fifth have concerns about people they have met online.

West Mercia Police launched the Worcester-shire E Safety website last year and so far 9,000 youngsters have taken part.

Results show 96 per cent of children say they feel safe on the internet.

However, 17 per cent of those say they had concerns about people they'd met online, but a quarter of them did not tell anyone about it.

Nearly 80 per cent of those surveyed say they are on Facebook.

Even though you need to be 13 years old to have an account, 62 per cent of 11-year-olds and 35 per cent of eight-year-olds say they are members.

Detective Superintendent Martin Lakeman, head of public protection at West Mercia Police, said: "The findings indicate some positive things as well as some very concerning trends."

"Children are claiming to be older than they are which means they are at a greater risk of coming into contact with sexualised language and behaviour."

The police's E Safety website features tips about staying safe on the internet, including not giving out personal information, and not agreeing to meet up with a stranger.

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- **Wednesday:** We go to Exmoor National Park stopping at the twin villages of **Lynton** and **Lynmouth**. Included is a ride on the unique water operated cliff railway dating back to 1890 joining the village of Lynton to its sister village of Lynmouth, 500ft below. On the way back to our hotel we'll stop at while in **Simonsbath**, another chocolate-box village in the National Park.
- **Thursday:** is left free so you can explore Bideford at our own pace and we return home on Friday after a last, hearty breakfast!

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Day 1: Join our coach this morning on a leisurely journey into South Wales as we head for Fishguard and board the 2:30pm Ferry to Rosslare in Southern Ireland. Crossing takes 3½ hours and once in Ireland, it's about 1½ hours drive to our hotel in **Dungarvan** in Co Waterford.

Day 2: A trip to the city of **Kilkenny**. On the way we travel through the beautiful scenery of the Nire Valley There's lots to see and do in Kilkenny (the Castle is well worth a visit) plus lovely places for lunch.

Day 3: A trip to Ireland's third city of **Cork**. A fascinating city and important sea port. On the way back to Dungarvan we stop at **Blarney** and you have a chance to kiss the Blarney Stone if you wish!

Day 4: Today is left free so you have a chance to explore Dungarvan itself.

Day 5: We leave after an early breakfast and catch the 9am ferry from Rosslare back to Fishguard then home to your original joining point.

Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan ***

In the historic town of Dungarvan and near local shops and sights. 94 bedrooms with full facilities. Well-presented reception, restaurant and bar/lounge. Evening entertainment

Price includes 4 nights D/B/B plus coach travel, ferry travel and trips out as shown. **SS £55**

Departs: Mon 5th March £189 and 23rd April £196

Lakes Mini Break £89

Just Look what's included...

Join our coach on Sunday morning for a leisurely journey to the Lake District. First stop is the charming village of **Cartmel**, spend a leisurely hour here, then go on to our hotel with time to settle-in and freshen-up before dinner this evening.

Monday: enjoy a hearty breakfast prior to a special day in the Lake District.

The coach will take you to **Haverthwaite** to board a steam train for a short journey through the beautiful scenery of the Leven Valley to Lakeside. Here, we board a boat for a 40 minute cruise on stunning **Lake Windermere** to **Bowness**. Enjoy some free time in Bowness including time for lunch if you wish.

To round-off the day we take a short trip along the shores of Windermere, through Ambleside to **Grasmere** and stop here for a little while before we finally leave the Lake District for home.

We stay at the **Shap Wells hotel** in the Shap Fells, A fine, 3 star hotel set in large grounds. All guest rooms have full facilities.

Price includes: coach travel, hotel, dinner, breakfast, train and boat trip. Single £10

Departs: Sun 27th May £89

Isle of Wight Great-value 5 day trip this trip this April...

Just look what's included...

Day 1: Join our coach this morning as we head to Southampton for our ferry to East Cowes. From here we make the short drive to the **Burlington Hotel** in Sandown for 4 nights.

Day 2: After breakfast, we've arranged a lovely day out for you. First stop is the Victorian town of **Ventnor** which has a warm, Mediterranean feel due to the Gulf Stream. Later we see one of the natural wonders of the English coastline when we visit **Alum Bay** and view the 'Needles'

This afternoon we visit one of the most photographed and prettiest villages on the Island, **Godshill** and we've booked you a treat - a cream tea in a 17th Century cottage

Day 3 Today we go to the Capital **Newport** and spend some time here, then we go to the seaside town of **Ryde**. The town has one of England's oldest pleasure piers, a nice Marina and shops. Later we enjoy a bit of Wine at **Rosemary's Vineyard** - one of England's few. We've arranged a visit which includes a short walking tour, a fascinating talk and plenty of sampling of their award winning wines.

Day 4: There's so much to see and do a short stroll from your hotel in Sandown so we've left today free so you can explore at your own pace.

Day 5: A last hearty 'Burlington Hotel breakfast before we set off for home.

The Burlington Hotel Sandown

Long-established, family-run and well-respected in Sandown. Just 2 minutes walk from the beach and town centre. This hotel has a spacious bar with dance floor with regular evening entertainment. Indoor pool and spa bath. All bedrooms en-suite with modern facilities.

Price includes: 4 nights hotel, dinner, breakfast, coach, ferries and all trips out as shown. **SS £20**

Departs: Tue 10th April £226



The ballroom scene from a production of Cinderella staged at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, in December 1935



Ted Rogers, Beryl Reid and Jack Tripp rehearse for Mother Goose at Alexandra Theatre in 1962



Bob Monkhouse with friends after appearing at the Throstles Club, Great Barr, in 1968. Golden Shot hostess Anne Aston, from West Bromwich, is third from the left



The Gaumont Cinema in Steelhouse Lane in 1965

City top of the bill with music and comedy mix

IT WAS Birmingham's eclectic mix of opera and ballet, coupled with music hall and pantomime that helped the city develop its cultural identity throughout the 1950s and 60s.

Entertainment venues such as the Beaufort cinema in Ward End, the Hippodrome and Alexandra Theatres and the Town Hall played a large part with comedians, musicians and pantomimes regularly topping the bill.

The venues are among the ones highlighted in Alton Douglas' latest pictorial history of Birmingham from 1900 to 190.

Big music-hall names such as Max Miller and Harry Secombe would often tread the boards at the Hippodrome while American jazz singer Sarah Vaughan graced the Odeon in 1950s.

Later in 1968, a young Bob Monkhouse could be seen performing at West Bromwich Albion's supporters club The Throstles Club,



The Beaufort cinema in Coleshill Road, Ward End, in 1956



Great Barr. Musicians such as Buddy Holly rocked both the airwaves and various Birmingham venues live, performing two shows in one day at Birmingham Town Hall on the 10th March 1958.

Classical music fans were treated by regular performances by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Choir, both performing to the

highest of standards. It was the theatre that really captured the heart of the Black Country with various city centre theatre's thriving throughout the era.

Norman Evans, the only pantomime dame to receive top billing at London's Palladium, chose the Birmingham Hippodrome for his Christmas appearance in Humpty Dumpty in 1953.

Alton Douglas' new book *Birmingham 1900-1970*, filled with nostalgic pictures, can be bought online at www.altondouglas.co.uk or at local book-sellers.



Harry Secombe, who topped the bill at the Hippodrome in 1956



Sarah Vaughan who appeared at the Odeon, New Street, in 1956



Comedian Max Miller, who topped the bill at the Hippodrome in 1953



New Street in 1909 with the Theatre Royal on the right

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































Low sale prices. Pay nothing for a year. No deposit. Then take interest free credit.

Don't miss your chance to enjoy low sale prices, savings of 50% or more and pay nothing for a year with no deposit and then the chance to spread the cost interest free. The incredible Winter Sale at Cousins, is now in its final week, doors close Sunday 5pm.

Cousins boast three of the largest furniture stores in the UK. Whatever your taste, contemporary or classical, they have inspirational room settings and an unbeatable choice - it's the ultimate shopping experience.

Tower High Gloss double
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CUSTOMER SUPPORT
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I have long dark hair am tall and work in town. I love cosying up with a book and a glass of wine



To view these members and others go to...

<http://dating.expressandstar.com>

Beanna and Tom

Are this weeks featured web ads



I'm rather shy at first but am caring and affectionate with the right person. I'm very busy with work and don't find it easy to meet women to socialise

SINGLE LADIES

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.

(T&C's below)

LAURA 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384171 £

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385309

WIDOW genuine, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 303133

CHANTAL lonely 40yr old female looking for male 40-45 for fun. Interested? Call me. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383921 £

JEANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life. WILTM similarly male for tactile LTR, 40-55yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383917 £

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WILTM someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383911 £

RETIRED widow, medium build, loving, caring, genuine, likes holidays, seeks male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 311151

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WILTM understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375141 £

CARLY beautiful slim brunet looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376569 £

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363277 £

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373013 £

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364311 £

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WILTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376565 £

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360317 £

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non jealous, respectful male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383065 £

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368119 £

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WILTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378483 £

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382091 £

RACHAEL 49yrs young slim, caring, sincere and fun loving. WILTM similar male with GSOH for mutual companionship, perhaps more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381343 £

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368889 £

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378507 £

MICHELLE blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382089 £

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WILTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377511 £

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375139 £

LUCINDA caring 31yr old single mum, sick of school runs and runny noses, looking for some adult fun and good times with available easygoing male up to 45yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383067 £

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of tic and good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375711 £

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WILTM older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378481 £

FAYE young 43yr fun, trendy, fit, loves fast cars, wine, sports, shopping, seeking younger male to make me feel as young as the man I am feeling! Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383069 £

HI I'm Christine, 35, attractive with blue eyes, OHAC, lonely and seeking a genuine male to put some much needed tic back into my life, 30-60yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383913

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363428 £

SARAH curvaceous brunette, 35, solvent, OHAC, WILTM date again, looking for manly male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383909

JACKIE enjoys holidays, meals in or out, cosy nights in with good company, looking for nice times and romantic weekends away with reliable male. Any status. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383915

ATTRACTIVE 45yr old female, seeks genuine, attractive male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388550 £

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432 £

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368528 £

JEAN 71, fun loving Shrewsbury lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373657

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325 £

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383073

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651 £

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361076 £

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359238 £

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WILTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375825 £

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327579

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591 £

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378985

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378209 £

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373 £

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378295 £

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WILTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376165 £

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376115 £

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375789 £

ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374845 £

Be my Valentine

VALENTINE'S DAY
TUESDAY
14TH
FEB

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<http://hm.mfas.co.uk/?s=wolv>

LOUISE looking for lovely, young male, 20-30's, easygoing for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380469

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375929 £

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WILTM countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387204

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371127 £

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below)

DANIEL 49, tall, attractive, GSOH, seeks lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382559

MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOH, seeks lady for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376921

IAN 43, single dad, likes rugby, motorsports, reading, history, cooking, walks, cinema, music, seeks kind, honest, sincere lady, 25-48. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371955

ATTRACTIVE professional, male, 43, kind, caring, likes travel, romance, dining, seeks attractive lady, 35-50 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370823 £

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369663 £

ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite, respectful with GSOH, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371823

CHARMING fit 41yr old professional male, seeks lively, caring companion for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359945 £

MALE 38, good looking, fit, loving, caring, GSOH, WILTM female, 40-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 235383

ATTRACTIVE British male, 38, seeks slim, attractive, caring female for friendship, hopefully LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 227154

47YR old musician, thoughtful, tall, seeks quiet, easygoing lady, 40-47 for mellow relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384401 £

CHRIS attractive male, 42, 5ft 10ins, cuddly, dark hair, hazel eyes, likes days out, nights in, seeks attractive female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385243 £

BOB 61, seeks attractive younger lady for daytime meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385121

DARK haired male, slim, blue eyes, fit, likes pubs, clubs, weekends away, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385087 £

LONELY caring gent, 64, seeks lady for lasting relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385025 £

62YR old honest, caring gent, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 357121

MALE 54, seeks female 60 plus for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389114

ATTRACTIVE South Shropshire male, youthful 47, solvent, loyal, good company, seeks attractive, slim, independent lady up to 45 for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 303279 £

PAUL 61, seeks attractive younger lady, 28-48 for daytime fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384977

STEVE 53, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384933

SINCERE honest male, young 60's, intelligent, caring, slim, likes music, outdoors, art, theatre, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 50 plus with style and wit. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384849

TOM 61, medium build, reasonable looks, with ties, seeks attractive, younger lady, 25-48 for exciting daytime fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384771 £

JOHN 57, lonely, seeking female to share life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377831 £

CLIVE 48, divorced, 2 children, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389158 £

MAURICE Shropshire farmer, 43, seeks farming lady of any age to share the good things in life with view to LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374021 £

ROBERT slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 312443

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372407

CARING affectionate 70's male enjoys home life, socialising, holidays, seeks special lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384653

JEFF 63, tall, fresh looking, fit, N/S, nice personality, seeks female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384583

MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383425 £

TONY genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373351

GENUINE professional male, 46, slim-medium build, many interests, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 239175

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 239148

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382997 £

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363253

MALE 36, likes pubs, clubs, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Carol please leave your mobile number again. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 263938

60'S MAMale, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307

BRIAN 60, single, 5ft 10ins, medium build, down to earth, seeks genuine lady friend who is romantic. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372181

GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further. TEXT: GAY247 to 65125

www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 311892 £

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Police warning after break-in

POLICE are urging residents in Kidderminster to ensure their doors and windows are always secure even when they are at home, after a house was burgled.

The raiders stole a leather handbag containing several debit and credit cards.

They also took a cheque book, a blue leather purse with a small amount of cash inside, a make-up bag and a blue leather iPhone case.

The owners were in the garden, which is at the side of the house, at the time of the theft.

But they had left the back door and side gate unlocked. The thieves struck between 2pm and 5pm on February 4 in Comberton Avenue.

PC Adrian Bartlett said: "We are eager to hear from anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity around the Comberton Avenue area on February 4 afternoon."

He added: "This appears to have been an opportunist burglar who managed to sneak in when no-one was looking."

MPs in call for photo ID to crack down on metal theft

SCRAP metal dealers should be regulated like pubs and off-licences, according to a group of MPs including Mark Garnier, MP for Wyre Forest.

They should have to ask for photo identification, say the politicians.

Their intervention comes as the Government plans to tear up the licences of dodgy scrap dealers to try to clamp down on thefts from rail-

ways, church roofs and manhole covers that costs the West Midlands £27 million a year.

Backbench MPs have called on the Government to bring in even more rules on top of plans to ban cash payments and impose larger fines.

In a debate co-sponsored by Dudley South Tory Chris Kelly, MPs voted to call for a new licensing scheme similar to alcohol licensing, giving police the power to search and investigate all premises owned by scrap metal dealers and giving mag-

istrates the power to ban closed yards from re-opening.

In Walsall, tatters may be made to carry licences in what would be a national first. And council chiefs are looking at drawing up a licensing by-law to help tackle the problem of metal thefts.

Mr Kelly said: "Legitimate metal dealers have told me that yards they know of are regularly visited by youths with bags containing copper wire that is weighed in for cash."

"I have been told of a metal

dealer's customer record book containing the name Mickey Mouse and the address Disneyland, Paris."

"A youth carrying copper wire in a plastic bag to a scrap yard clearly is not a professional, licensed or regulated commodity dealer."

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier added: "A suggestion from the police is to license those scrap metal merchants who used to be rag and bone men but who are now more technically minded and have flatbed trucks."

Team given top marks

ARCHIVE and archaeology staff in Worcestershire have been given top marks for their educational visits.

Schools in the county make trips to the Worcestershire History Centre where they can view historic maps, photos and other documents. The base has now been awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

Head of Worcestershire History Centre Paul Hudson said: "Young people are fascinated to use historic documents. We also deliver sessions for the Young Archaeologists' Club."

College celebrates apprentice success



Karen Lowry graduating with her CIPD qualification. Kidderminster College set her on the right track

KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE has been celebrating the positive effect apprenticeships have on young people and the businesses they work for.

One success story has been Karen Lowry who was 17 when she first came to the college, realising that A-Levels may not be for her.

Karen was offered support and guidance by the college and decided that an apprenticeship may be a good route into a successful career.

She was placed at construction company Thomas Vale on an administration apprenticeship programme. She worked in the training department where she went on to complete her Level 2 and Level 3 administration apprenticeships.

She then went on to graduate with a Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development qualification. She has also worked at Brintons as a People Development Co-ordinator, and now works as a training officer at The Community Housing Group where she co-ordinates the apprentice programme.

Jane Dunn, Karen's Work Based Learning Co-ordinator at Kidderminster College, said: "I've been so proud to follow Karen's progress."

For further information on apprenticeships contact Kidderminster College on 01562 826501.

Museum plan sparks fear of traffic chaos

FEARS are growing that a £5 million glass museum would lead to traffic chaos on a busy main road in the Black Country. The stretch is already a nightmare, say residents. Plans are being drawn up to build the new attraction on the former Stuart Crystal site, in Wordsley. It would be opposite the Red House Glass Cone.

Formal plans have yet to be submitted but residents near to the site say they fear the museum would increase traffic along the A491, one of the busiest roads in the borough.

They say it is already "bumper to bumper" throughout the day. One resident, Paul Price, aged 63, who has lived in Audnam for more than 30 years, said: "I am not against progress and I am not against the new glass museum in itself. However, the A491 is already chaos."

Dudley Council regeneration chief, Councillor Angus Adams, said: "Improving the road network will be looked at as part of this scheme."

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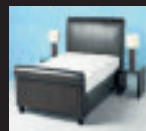
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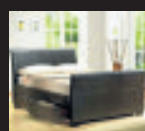
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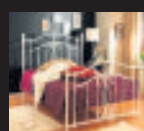
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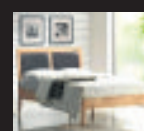
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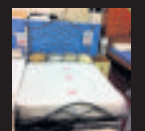
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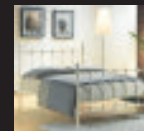
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Free rides saved lots of goats

Club News

Busy president's work-life balance

BLACKHEATH MORNING TWG

ABOUQUET was presented to vice chairman Doreen Smith as thanks for organising our carol service in December at the Central Methodist Church, Blackheath, which was a resounding success.

Our treasurer, Beryl Hartley, announced that our charity fund for the past year raised £755.50, of which £444.63 was raised at the carol service.

A cheque for £755.50 had been sent to Acorns Children's Hospice, and Beryl thanked all our members for helping to raise such a splendid amount.

Doreen then introduced our speaker, Mr Alan Peace, who gave a splendid talk entitled John O'Groats to Lands End - Bike vs Bus.

This was an extremely entertaining story about his experiences travelling the length of the British Isles on bus, racing against his stepson and friend who were on bicycles.

We were all astonished to find just how far one could travel using a free pensioner bus pass, leaving us all wondering which of us would be first to try it.

After tea and biscuits our meeting was closed at 12.30pm.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 22, at 10.30am at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, when our speaker will be Mr David Hickman whose talk is entitled "Diaries I've enjoyed".

Visitors will be made very welcome.



President Julia Jordan (left), immediate past president Renée White and region president Judith Healey help at a table-top sale of unwanted Christmas gifts

JULIA Jordan, president of Soroptimist International of Wolverhampton, welcomed the president of Soroptimist International of Midland Chase region, Judith Healey.

Wolverhampton is one of the 14 clubs which make up the Midland Chase region, and it has been a tradition that it invites the region president to attend and tell members a little about herself.

Judith is a radiographer in a senior position at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, and members were interested to hear of her

WOLVERHAMPTON SOROPTIMISTS

career and how, despite being a busy wife, mother and now grandmother, she has managed a demanding full time job with a long-standing commitment to Soroptimism.

The main theme for her presidential year is teamwork, and how each member needs to join together to "make a difference".

Skydiving can be arranged

THE club welcomed Julie Pearce, who certainly started our 2012 demonstrations with a bang.

Julie's title was Sporting Life, taking us from the dizzy heights of skydiving to the depths of potholing. Her first arrangement with spring flowers was from her riding days. Then came tennis with yellow roses and tulips on a metal frame.

Skydiving was on a beauti-

WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

ful large pink vase and she used phormiums, pink, orchids, carnations and gerberas.

Potholing was done in orange flowers and lastly came rock climbing in white for the white horses seen in the caverns. These were

tulips, lilies and lizianthus with fern and eucalyptus. Julie's flower arrangements and flowers were excellent and she bought different sports into our lives, which left us quite worn out.

The club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month and visitors are always welcome at £5 per visit to include refreshments. More details from Pauline on 01384 271430.



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Country lovers on course for the great outdoors



Amanda Hill and Joanne Taylor of the Countryside Services Team

Free health checks on offer

FREE health checks are on offer in Worcestershire. Health trainers from Worcestershire PCT will be hosting sessions and health trainer co-ordinator Jayne McCullough said: "The health MOTs include body mass index, blood glucose and

blood pressure, plus information on a healthier lifestyle."

Sessions will be at Kidderminster Hospital on February 21 at 10am-3pm, and at 5 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster, on February 22, 23, 24 and 25. Call 01905 733673.

A SERIES of events is being organised to help people make the most of the Worcestershire countryside.

The county council's countryside service team and the Grow with Wyre project, are running free one-day courses highlighting the activities and opportunities available.

A workshop, Introduction to the Countryside, will be held at various locations: March 2, Kidderminster Town Hall; March 7, Bewdley Baptist Church and March 23, at Stourport on Severn, Areley Kings Village Hall.

It is suitable for adults, and runs from 9.15-4.30 with refreshments.

A course called Training to lead in the Countryside, is at the Wye Community Discovery Centre, Callow Hill, on March 9 and March 24, from 9.15am.

Explore

People will learn how to lead a walk, and health and safety. The afternoon session will take attendees on a walk around the trail in the forest.

Wade Muggleton, Senior Community Greenspace Officer said: "We live in such a beautiful area and many would like to explore it further. These courses will enable people to know their rights and responsibilities when exploring the countryside."

The courses are free but places are limited and booking is essential.

To find out more or to book your place contact the Countryside Service Team on 01905 766155 or send an email to communitygreenspace@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Help at beauty spot

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with work at a Midland beauty spot. Worcester-shire Wildlife Trust plans to remove woodland at the Devil's Spittleful, between Kidderminster and Bewdley, to encourage other plant life. Call 01905 754919 to book.

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99p boss blew £19,000 shop takings in casino

A SHOP manager who stole more than £19,000 takings from his branch of 99p Stores and then blew it at a casino has been jailed and now faces deportation.

Vishnu Amuram, manager at the shop in Halesowen, has been jailed for 12 months and now faces being deported to his native India once he completes his prison sentence.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last that the 32-year-old had sole responsibility for running the store in Halesowen's Cornbow Centre.

Among his responsibilities was bagging up the takings at the end of the day and placing the money in a secure location.

Roulette

But over four days last December, Amuram had instead pocketed the cash and used it to gamble on the roulette table at a casino. He lost all of the cash - a total of £19,240 - apart from £525 which was recovered after he admitted his deception.

Miss Helena Miller, prosecuting, said Amuram, of Aldridge Road, Perry Barr, had contacted his area manager on the morning of December 19 to admit what he had done.

"Amuram said he had gambled the money away at a casino and admitted he had a gambling problem," Mr Ayoub Khan, defending, said. "He has been candid throughout the proceedings. He pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and admits he has a gambling problem."

He said Amuram, who pleaded guilty to theft, had also claimed he had been trying to raise money to pay for an operation needed by his sister.

Charity given cash boost

PUPILS at St Mary's Primary in Kingswinford raised over £400 for a charity that employs adults with learning disabilities, with a sale. The cash went to Lunch on the Run on the Pennett Trading Estate, which produces food for meetings and events.

Bell of a coup for pub



Owner Joanne Narbett with head chef Trevor Fear at the Bell and Cross pub, Holy Cross, Clent, which has won two awards

A VILLAGE pub has been voted the best in the region by the readers of The Good Beer Guide.

The Bell and Cross, Clent, near Stourbridge, has netted two awards in the 2012 guide. It won Heart of England Pub of the Year and the Worcestershire County Dining Pub of the Year for the fifth time in a row.

Husband and wife team Roger and Joanne Narbett have run the pub with their business partner Paul Mohan since 2000. "It's a fantastic achievement for The Bell and

Cross team and for putting the beautiful village of Clent on the map once again," said Mr Narbett. "These awards recognise the hard work put in by every member of the team without whose support these awards would not have been possible."

Mr Narbett was chef to the England football team for 10 years and worked at the Dorchester Hotel, London, while Mr Mohan was a chef at the Hyatt Regency, in Birmingham, and Claridges Hotel, London.



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CARLISLE: A lunchtime break of up to around 2 hours is expected at Carlisle. You may choose to stroll between the castle, cathedral or indeed the Tullie House Museum - all of which are surrounded by great places to shop, eat or drink. The beauty of Carlisle is that most of the main area of the city is within walking distance of its rail station making it an ideal destination for most visitors.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

We all go Gaga for chips – the nation's favourite



Crinkle-cut chips with coronation chicken



Spicy wedges served with an avocado dip

CHUNKY, skinny, curly or crinkly – which chip are you?

New research commissioned for Chip Week 2012 (20-26 February) maps the nation's favourite chip and condiment combinations.

The survey showed that fans of wedges are most likely to dip them in barbecue sauce, and ketchup is most popular with those who prefer oven chips and French fries.

Salt and vinegar was voted the most popular chip topping of all, confirming the British love affair with chips.



Whatever your favourite chip and whichever condiment you prefer, we have the ultimate guide to Chip Week 2012 at www.chips.lovepotatoes.co.uk

Log on to get a new series of delicious recipes to help you cook amazing chips.

Chip Week is a chance to celebrate our nation's favourite dish, but think you

know everything about chips? Did you know that a quarter of all potatoes grown in Britain are made into chips – that's around 1.5 million tonnes each year?

Or that the record number of chip portions sold in a fish and chip shop in one day was 4,000?

The chips eaten in Britain each year come from potatoes weighing the equivalent of nearly 2.9 million Formula 1 cars.

Laid end to end, those chips would take you around the Silverstone Grand Prix circuit more than 1.5 million times – that's the equivalent

of more than 26,000 British Grand Prix races.

Chris Verschueren, of Kastel, Belgium, holds the world record for the longest French fries cooking marathon. He cooked for 83 hours, serving 15,000 portions of chips.

And even pop diva Lady Gaga is a chip fan. She recently made a late night stop with her tour bus for fish and chips in Marylebone, London. The bus wasn't able to fit outside the chippy so her security team went to pick up the take-away while a suitable parking spot was found.

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Hits that stand the test of time

BeeGees - Number Ones
FEW have been such prolific hitmakers as sibling trio the Gibb, the Isle of Man's big contribution to pop. Here are 17 of their best, from the 1960s when Robin's vibrato vocal was the band's signature (as on Massachusetts and Words) through the disco 70s when Barry's falsetto took over with the classic Jive Talkin' and Night Fever.

The total is made up to 20 with Man In The Middle, a tribute to the late Maurice Gibb, Islands In The Stream and the demo version of Immortality, which they have in the sense of being pop legends.

Goldfrapp - The Singles
FROM the dramatic Lovely Head to the stomping Ooh La La, the breathy vocals of Alison Goldfrapp and synth-strings of Will Gregory have over five albums injected a welcome dose of glam and disco into the music scene with the duo's distinctive sexy synthetic pop sound.

Includes two new tracks, Yellow Halo and Melancholic Sky.

Django Django
ENTERTAINING debut album from a quirky Scottish outfit. They draw on spaghetti western themes and video game jingles as much as surf music and West Coast psychedelic pop, the latter evident on the Buffalo Springfield-like Hand of Man. Contemporary kindred spirits would include Beck and The Beta Band.

Leon Burakowski

Hobson's Choice for fans of ballet with so much on

SPRING has come early for ballet fans with the start of Birmingham Royal Ballet's new season at Birmingham Hippodrome in a fortnight that is rich in high quality dance.

Comic yet poignant ballet Hobson's Choice, set in Victorian times, tells the rags to riches story of boot-maker Will Mossop, with a lot of help from the iron-willed Maggie Hobson. It was a breakthrough creation in 1989 for David Bintley, who is now the BRB's director. The revival is staged from Wednesday, February 22, to February 25.

The following week the same company present a brace under the title Spring Passions. It is a Frederick Ashton choreographed double bill with the Greek myth of Daphnis and Chloe plus romantic classic The Two Pigeons. They are staged from February 29 to March 3.

The BRB's return to their home city begins on Friday, February 17, with An Evening of Song and Dance at the Symphony Hall featuring excerpts from the company's repertoire presented by David Bintley and performed by principal dancers including Nao Sakuma, Iain Mackay, Elisha Willis and Jamie Bond. The Royal Ballet Sinfonia

will also perform a selection of favourite ballet music.

The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia are at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday with a different ballet each evening over three days. There's rural tale La Fille Mal Gardée, featuring the famous clog dance, the classic Swan Lake on Tuesday, and the spectacular Sleeping Beauty on Wednesday.

Dance is brought up to dance with the dynamic BalletBoyz at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham for one night only on Monday, February 27.

Table talk

A POOL table is the main prop in former taxi driver Ishy Din's first play, Snookered, being staged at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on February 21 and 22.

Tensions mount when four men meet to mark the sixth anniversary of their friend's death with a few drinks and a game of pool, in a hard-hitting story from the Middlesbrough writer.

Tickets cost £9 (concessions £7). Contact the box office on 01902 321321.

Deloris is simply divine

Sister Act, Wolverhampton Grand

DIAMANTE-studded nuns happy clapping to a disco beat... what's not to like about the silly but warm-hearted musical Sister Act.

Based on Whoopi Goldberg's 20-year-old comedy movie and more recent West End blockbuster, this joyous tale about a 1970s soul singer who finds refuge from a gangster in the cloisters of a convent had the audience laughing and clapping along.

Only the most po-faced puritan could argue with the show's feel-good vibe and witty songs from chief Disney songwriters Menken and Slater. And young Rada graduate Cynthia Erivo is a revelation in the starring role of soul sister Deloris Van Cartier, with former Coronation Street actress Denise Black a formidable opponent as the Mother Superior.

Sister Act is at the Grand to Saturday.

Leon Burakowski



Cynthia Erivo as the funky fake nun

Understudy steps into the limelight

South Pacific, New Alexandra Theatre

IT was some enchanted evening for understudy Carly Anderson when she took the lead role of Nellie Forbush on the opening night of South Pacific at Birmingham, standing in for the ill Samantha Womack.

Was Carly second best? Not on your Nellie! The sparky soprano gave a fine leading lady performance in the World War Two musical. The only criticism was a lack of chemistry with leading man Matthew Cammelle, who has a fine operatic voice but as French planter De Becque was de bland. The best singer was Loretta Ables Sayre, from Broadway, as a desperate, sinister

Bloody Mary with a shuffling walk akin to Ozzy Osbourne. Cameron Jack (also an understudy) as the rogue US navy engineer Luther Billis lit up the stage with his mischief and his troupe of hunky Seabees (navy constructors) were a big hit with the ladies. They made an instant impact with big number There Is Nothin' Like A Dame. There is nothin' like nostalgia and South Pacific delivers for a senior audience. But no amount of West End pizzazz can disguise the fact that the show is dated.

South Pacific continues at the Alex until Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

New take on dance classic

Matthew Bourne's The Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome
THIS is The Nutcracker but not as you would probably know it, for this is Matthew Bourne's version.

Forget the traditional elements of the classic ballet - apart from Tchaikovsky's music - and enjoy the more contemporary version which enthralled the packed Birmingham Hippodrome.

Billed as one of the most dazzling and imaginative productions ever staged, it lived up to its reputation - combining wit with magical fantasy. It takes you on a journey with young girl Clara from a bleak Christmas Eve in an orphanage through an ice skating wonderland to the candy kingdom.

Different, yes but this version, like the more traditional version, features wonderful costumes - the Knickerbocker Glories and Marshmallow Girls in Sweetland are superb - and, above all, brilliant dancing.

Sue Attwater

Musical help for hospice

GAY anthem I Am What I Am features in the hit musical La Cage Aux Folles, being staged by Pro-Am Productions at Wolverhampton Grand with the aim of raising the final £5,000 and more towards a private suite at Compton Hospice.

Pro Am Productions, which teams professional performers with local amateurs, is run by Jeremy Hobbs, deputy chairman to the board of trustees at Compton Hospice and a member of The Rotary Club of Wolverhampton.

The show about a gay couple who must play straight when one of them has to impress his son's prospective in-laws will star Tony O'Rourke as outrageous drag queen Zaza and his alter-ego Albin.

It will be staged four times over three days at the Lichfield Street venue from Thursday, February 23. Tickets are £15.50 to £21.50 with concessions available. Contact the box office on 01902 429212 or www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Sisters at war

The Worst Thing About My Sister - Jacqueline Wilson
SISTERS fight like cat and dog when forced to share a bedroom in the new hardback from the former Children's Laureate. Then an accident makes tomboy Marty examine how she feels about her big sister. For readers aged 11 and under.

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THE CULTURE SHOW

BBC2, 6pm

Mark Kermode knows a lot about films. So if he says somebody should have won an award for their performance in a particular movie, you'd better sit up and take notice. He's about to do just that when he hosts this year's Kermode Awards, which celebrate films and actors overlooked by the Oscars. Andrew Graham-Dixon journeys north of the border to review the National Theatre of Scotland's An Appointment with The Wicker Man, and, as Tate Britain opens its new exhibition Picasso and Modern British Art, Alastair Sooke investigates the Spaniard's relationship with surrealist Roland Penrose.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.35 Rachel Allen: Home Cooking. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Athletics. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 A Question of Sport. (R) 5.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Winter Wipeout. Former champions and losing finalists tackle the course, including Babyface Baz, Wheely Dan, Alaca-Dan and Suspicious Helen. Presented by Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram.

7.00 Let's Dance for Sport Relief. New series. Shooting Stars duo Ulrika Jonsson and Angelos Epithemiou, DJs Tony Blackburn and David Hamilton, and cricket star Darren Gough compete in the charity dance show.

8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Game show hosted by Nick Knowles in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

9.10 Casualty. Dixie is suspicious of a new paramedic.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.20 FILM: Stansky & Hutch. (2004) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights of today's games.

1.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 The Sky at Night. (R) 12.20 Film: Houseguest. (1995) Comedy, starring Sinbad and Phil Hartman. 2.05 Film: A Good Woman. (2004) Comedy drama, starring Helen Hunt. 3.30 Birds Britannia. 4.30 Flog It! (R) 5.30 Dad's Army. (R)

6.00 The Culture Show. Andrew Graham-Dixon reviews the National Theatre of Scotland's adaptation of The Wicker Man, and Mark Kermode presents his own awards for the past year's films.

7.00 Live Cycling. Jake Humphrey presents coverage of the second day of the fourth and final round of the Track Cycling World Cup Classics season, staged at the Olympic Velodrome in London.

9.00 Lucian Freud: Painted Life. The career of painter Lucian Freud, who died in July, telling the story of a complex man who refused to go with the flow, only achieving celebrity in older age.

10.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Jack Dee. (R)

11.15 Pan Am. Ginny follows Dean to Rome.

11.55 FILM: Bull Durham. (1988) A baseball groupie is torn between a grizzled veteran and a talented but dim-witted newcomer for her next lover. Comedy drama, with Kevin Costner, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins.

14.00 The Culture Show.

6.00 CITY: Mini CITY. 7.25 CITY. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 This Morning: Saturday. 12.20 ITV News; Weather. 12.30 May the Best House Win. (R) 1.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 2.30 Film: Death Becomes Her. (1992) Black comedy fantasy, starring Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep. 4.25 Regional News: Weather. 4.35 ITV News; Weather. 4.50 Live FA Cup Football. Sunderland v Arsenal (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.20 New You've Been Framed! Featuring a treadmill trauma.

7.50 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.

8.20 Take Me Out. A pianist from Hartlepool life guard, a pianist from Bournemouth and a London shipbroker try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to actor John Hurt and actress Christina Ricci, and also welcomes Celebrity Juice regulars Keith Lemon, Fearnie Cotton and Holly Willoughby. Plus, LHMFA perform.

10.20 ITV News; Weather. 10.35 FA Cup Football Highlights. Including Chelsea v Birmingham City.

11.35 The Cube. (R)

12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 3.00 In Plain Sight. 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hobbs. (R) 6.35 The Hobbs. (R) 7.00 GT Academy. 7.25 Daytona 24: The Story of the Daytona Challenge 2012. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 T4: Everyone's Talking About - Top Ten. 9.25 T4: Bourjois Boutique. 9.30 T4: This Means War: T4 Movie Special. 10.00 T4: New Girl. (R) 10.35 T4: New Girl. (R) 11.05 T4: Bourjois Boutique. 11.10 T4: Playing It Straight. 12.05 T4: New Girl. (R) 12.35 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.05 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.40 Channel 4 Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Ana Jalais hopes to impress at the final dinner party in Brighton. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. Members of the public discuss the effectiveness of alternative medicine.

7.20 FILM: The Day the Earth Stood Still. (2008) A scientist tries to persuade an alien visitor to Earth that the human race should be allowed to survive. Sci-fi remake, starring Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly.

9.10 The Bank Job. Game show, hosted by George Lamb.

10.10 FILM: Final Destination 3. (2006) Horror sequel, starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead.

12.00 Film: The Manchurian Candidate. (2004) Thriller, starring Denzel Washington. 2.15 Dave Gorman's Googlewhack. 4.05 90210. (R) 4.45 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Demolition: The Tallest Tower. (R) 11.00 Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol. (R) 12.00 Film: Al Jennings of Oklahoma. (1951) Western, with Dan Duryea. 1.30 Film: Gunsmoke. (1953) Western, starring Audie Murphy. 3.05 Film: King of Kings. (1961) Drama, starring Jeffrey Hunter.

6.15 5 News Weekend. 6.20 NCIS. Ducky is attacked by a knife-wielding woman who accuses him of war crimes, alleging he tortured and killed her brother in Afghanistan in the early 1980s. (R)

7.10 NCIS. The agents investigate the private life of a murdered Navy captain. (R)

8.00 NCIS. Inquiries into the death of a Marine land the team squarely in the middle of an inner-city gang war, forcing Gibbs to confront a secret from his past. (R)

9.00 CSI: NY. Danny risks his career when he is knocked unconscious in a bar brawl and comes round to discover an undercover officer has shot his assailant dead.

9.55 Live Boxing. Kid Galahad v Jason Booth. Coverage of the bout for the vacant WBC International Super Bantamweight title at the Magna Centre in Rotherham.

11.30 True Grit: The True Story. (R)

12.30 SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.25 Divine Designs. (R) 4.50 Rough Guide to Islands. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2 2.45 American Idol 4.50 Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) 7.05 Film: Twins (1988). Comedy adventure, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. 9.20 Take Me Out - The Gossip 10.05 Celebrity Juice 10.50 Film: The Island (2005)

ITV3 2.10 Film: Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes (2000) 4.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 6.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 11.00 Film: Dead Calm (1989). Suspense thriller, with Sam Neill, Nicole Kidman and Billy Zane.

ITV4 3.20 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) 5.00 Film: The Far Country (1954) 7.00 The Sweeney 8.00 Minder 9.00 Film: Jaws 3 (1983) Thriller sequel, starring Dennis Quaid. 11.00 Film: Scarface (1983)

BBC THREE 7.00 Doctor Who 8.30 Top Gear 9.35 Live at the Apollo 10.50 Family Guy 11.35 American Dad!

BBC FOUR 7.00 Decisive Weapons 8.00 Sinatra Sings 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Storyville: The Jazz Baroness

E4 1.45 Hollyoaks 4.20 Perfect Couples 5.15 Scrubs 6.10 The Big Bang Theory 7.05 Happy Endings 7.35 How I Met Your Mother 8.05 Rules of Engagement 8.35 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Epic Movie (2007). Fantasy spoof, starring Kal Penn and Adam Campbell. 10.40 World's Greatest Celebrity Body Shakers 11.50 The Big Bang Theory

FILM4 2.55 Timeline (2003) 5.05 Faintheart (2008) 6.50 Planet of the Apes (1968). Sci-fi drama, starring Charlton Heston and Roddy McDowall. 9.00 Max Payne (2008) Action thriller, starring Mark Wahlberg. 11.00 Thirst (2009)

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HOMELAND

Channel 4, 9.30pm

Whenever a hit US series receives acclaim, it always seems to be snapped up by Sky for broadcast, usually, on its Atlantic channel. So it's a nice surprise to see Channel 4 nipping in to nab Homeland from under its big-spending rival's nose. Like In Treatment, this is based on an Israeli series. It focuses on the idea of what might happen if a US serviceman returned home after seeing action, having become convinced that the terrorists he was sent to find were right after all. The opening episode introduces viewers to Carrie Mathison, a CIA operations officer who's received a tip-off from a contact in Afghanistan about a soldier who has been turned into a sleeper agent by al-Qaeda.

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** EastEnders. **2.50** Penguin Island. (R) **3.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.20** Lifeline. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Polar Bear: Spy on the Ice. (R)

6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison looks back on previous reports, from orienteering in the Lake District's unspoilt spaces, to Julia Bradbury's travels along the River Wye. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. The team returns to Hartland Abbey, Devon, where items of interest include a quilt believed to be made from ballgowns worn in the royal household and a rare piece of pressed glass.

8.30 Call the Midwife. Sister Monica Joan is accused of theft. Last in the series.

9.30 Upstairs Downstairs. New series. Sir Hallam becomes preoccupied with Nazi Germany. **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

10.55 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Alistair McGowan, Hilary Devey and Josh Groban.

11.35 The Celebrity Apprentice USA.

1.05 Weatherview. **1.10** Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) **3.50** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Film: The Burning Hills. (1956) Western, starring Tab Hunter. **1.00** Film: The Gumball Rally. (1976) Car-race comedy, starring Michael Sarrazin. **2.45** Live Cycling. The final day of the Track Cycling World Cup Classics season from London.

6.00 Ski Sunday. The women's World Cup downhill race from Sochi in Russia.

6.45 Coast. The north-west coast of Ireland.

7.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. Celebrities undertake journeys on some of the most perilous routes in the world. In Alaska, Sue Perkins and Charley Boorman drive along the notorious Dalton Highway. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. With Hollywood actor Michael Fassbender.

9.00 Swimming with Crocodiles - Botswana. Part one of two. Ben Fogle joins a pilot research study of Nile crocodiles in Botswana.

10.00 Three Men in a Boat: The Best Bits. A compilation of highlights from the series.

11.00 Ski Sunday. The women's World Cup downhill race from Sochi in Russia. (R)

11.45 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. Russell Howard joins the presenter in Norwich. (R)

12.15 Film: Southern Comfort. (1981) Action thriller, starring Powers Boothe. **2.00** BBC News. **3.50** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** FA Cup Football Highlights. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.35** Live FA Cup Football. **4.45** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.30** Regional News; Weather. **5.50** ITV News; Weather.

6.05 Dancing on Ice. The nine remaining celebrities battle it out.

8.00 Coronation Street. Lewis returns to the Street and pays back the cash he stole.

8.30 Wild at Heart. Ed is left in charge of the endangered-species project at the clinic, where he meets a beautiful stranger who takes an interest in him - but Du Plessis is suspicious of her motives.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The results are announced and viewers find out which of the nine celebrities will be leaving the competition for good. Presented by Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley.

10.00 That Sunday Night Show. With Frank Skinner and John Prescott.

10.30 ITV News; Weather. **10.45** FA Cup Football Highlights. Including action from Crawley Town v Stoke City.

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.10** River Monsters. (R) **3.00** ITV Nightvision. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.30** Channel 4 Presents - 2012: Helen Turner. (R) **7.35** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **8.05** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **9.00** T4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. (R) **9.20** T4: Bourjois Boutique. **9.25** T4: Hollyoaks. (R) **11.55** T4: Bourjois Boutique. **12.00** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Film: Mighty Joe Young. (1998) Family adventure remake, with Charlize Theron. **3.10** Deal or No Deal. **4.05** Time Team. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.40** 4thought.tv. **5.45** The Political Slot. **5.50** Film: Fantastic Mr. Fox. (2009) Premiere. Stop-motion animated adventure, with the voice of George Clooney.

7.30 Home of the Future. The Perera family MOT business is modernised.

8.30 The Hotel. Manager Mark Jenkins ends the summer season with a barbecue pool party.

9.30 Homeland. New series. A CIA agent suspects a recently rescued American prisoner of war may be working for al-Qaeda. Thriller, starring Claire Danes and Damian Lewis.

10.40 FILM: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory. (1995) Adventure, with Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian, Morris Chestnut, Brenda Bakke and Katherine Heigl.

12.40 Film: Collateral. (2004) Thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx. **2.45** Film: The Grand Finale. (2006) Premiere. Documentary about the 2006 FIFA World Cup. **4.25** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** The Treacle People. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igan Ogan. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.20** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Gey's Anatomy. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.00** Film: Murder 101: Locked Room Mystery. (2008) Whodunit, starring Dick Van Dyke. **2.45** Film: Starman. (1984) Sci-fi fantasy romance, starring Jeff Bridges. **4.45** Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001) Romantic Second World War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.

8.00 Saving Private Ryan: The True Story. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 FILM: Death Race. (2008) Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham, Joan Allen and Ian McShane.

11.10 FILM: Thirteen Ghosts. (2001) Horror remake, starring Matthew Lillard, Tony Shalhoub and Shannon Elizabeth.

12.50 Inside Hollywood. **1.05** SuperCasino. (R) **3.55** Rough Guide to Adventures. (R) **4.10** How Not to Decorate. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
3.55 The Only Way Is Essex. **5.25** Film: Wild West. (1999) **7.30** Film: The Mummy (1999). Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex. **10.45** Film: The Bodyguard (1992). Romantic thriller, with Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston.

ITV3
3.40 Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982). Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **9.00** Lewis. **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
3.20 Film: The Far Country (1954) **5.20** Film: Nevada Smith (1966). Western, starring Steve McQueen. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: Hard Target (1993). Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. **11.00** Film: National Lampoon's Animal House (1978). Campus comedy, starring John Belushi.

BBC THREE
7.00 Let's Dance for Sport Relief. **8.00** Young Carpenter of the Year. **9.00** Being Human. **10.00** Film: Blades of Glory (2007). Ice-skating comedy, starring Will Ferrell. **11.30** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Sir John Dankworth at the BBC. **8.00** Jazz Piano Gold. **9.00** Barbara Thompson: Playing Against Time. **10.15** Barbara Thompson in Concert. **10.30** Film: Lourdes (2009). Premiere. French drama, starring Sylvie Testud.

E4
4.20 Samantha Who? **4.50** Being Erica. **5.50** 90210. **6.50** Film: Never Been Kissed (1999). Romantic comedy, with Drew Barrymore, Michael Vartan and David Arquette. **9.00** Desperate Housewives. **11.00** Skins

FILM4
2.45 Explorers (1985) **4.55** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **6.50** Waitress (2007). Romantic drama, starring Keri Russell and Nathan Fillion. **9.00** Knowing (2009). Mystery thriller, starring Nicolas Cage. **11.20** The Vault of Horror (1973)

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LGBT Adoption & Fostering Week

20 - 26 February 2012

In celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Week, we would like to invite members of the local LGBT community who are thinking about either adoption or fostering to attend an informal drop-in event.

**Wednesday 22nd February, 6 - 8pm,
Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club,
Droitwich Road, Worcester**

Pop in and chat to staff, foster carers and adopters over a coffee. You can discuss the process and have your questions answered. The need for foster carers and adopters in Worcestershire is as great as ever and we welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

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for further information

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worcestershire.gov.uk/adoption&fostering

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BBC1 6.00 Breakfast; 9.15 Waked Down Under
 Under Revisited; (R) 10.00 Hammer
 Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather; 11.00
 Doorstep Crime 999; 11.30 Cowboy Train; BBC
 News; Weather; 12.15 Bargain Hunt; 1.00 Bargain
 News; Weather; 1.30 Regional News; Weather; 1.45
 Bargain Hunt; 2.00 Bargain News; Weather; 2.15
 News; Weather; Regional News; 3.05 CBBC; 3.15
 Pointless; 6.00 BBC News; Weather; 6.30 Regional
 News Programmes; Weather; 7.00 The One Show
 BBC News; Regional News; 8.00 EastEnders; 8.30
 Room 101; 9.00 New Tricks; (R) 10.00 BBC News;
 10.30 The Bill; 11.00 The Bill; 11.30 The Bill;
 Norton Show; 11.20 The National Lottery Friday
 Night Draws; 11.30 Film: Scarie Movie 3; 12.00
 Spoof horror movie, starring Anna Farris; 2.25
 Weather; 12.50 Sign Zone: Question Time; (F)
 L.B.R.I.H.; 1.25 Sign Zone; (R) 2.50 Harry Bikers
 Live; 3.15 Sign Zone; (R) 3.45 Sign Zone

BBC2 6.00 Cbeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 Cbeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. **BBC3** 12.00 Daily Drama. 1.00 The Big Bang Theory. 2.00 Buy or Not to Buy (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. 7.00 Jeremy Deller: Middle Class Hero. A Culture Show Special. 8.00 Mashed. 8.30 Mashed. 9.00 Mervyn Bragg on Class & Culture. 10.00 (R) 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show. Oscars Special. 11.45 Weather. 11.50 Film: Felicia's Journey. (1999) Drama, starring Bob Odenkirk. 12.00 Mervyn Bragg on Class & Culture. 12.45 Jeremy Deller: Middle Class Hero. A Culture Show Special. (R) 2.40 BBC News. 3.35 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 *The Jeremy Kyle Show*. 10.30 *This Morning*. 12.30 *Loose Women*. 1.30 *ITV News: Weather*. 1.35 *Regional News*. 2.00 *Wickie*. 2.30 *Real Time*. 3.00 *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*. 3.50 *ITV News: Weather*. 4.00 *Midsomer Murders*. (R) 5.00 *The Chase*. (R) 6.00 *Regional News*. *Weather*. 6.30 *ITV News*. *Weather*. 7.00 *Emmerdale*. 7.30 *Coronation Street*. 8.00 *Safari vs School*. 8.30 *Coronation Street*. 9.00 *Benidorm*. 10.00 *ITV News at Ten*. *Weather*. 10.30 *Regional News*. *Weather*. 10.35 *Film*: *Walking Tall*. (2004) Action. *Adventure* zone, starring *Dwayne Johnson*. 12.05 *The Zone*. *ITV News Headlines*. 1.05 *Film*: *King Kong*. (1976) *Fantasy*. *Adventure* zone, starring *Jeff Bridges*. 4.20 *ITV News*. *Weather*. 5.30 *ITV Midsomer Murders*.

Channel 4 6.15 *Channel 4 Presents*
 7.07 *Jody Cusack* (R) 7.33 *The Treach-
 Two* (R) **6.20** *Sally the Treacher*
 People. (R) **6.35** *The Hoobs*. (R) **7.00** *Fren-
 Squeezed*. **7.30** *According to Jim*. **7.55** *Everybod-
 Loves Raymond*. (R) **8.25** *Frasier*. (R) **8.55**
Survivor Boss. (R) **9.55** *Survivor*. **10.35** *The
 100*. **11.00** *A Place in the Sun*. **Winter Sun**. **12.00**
Channel 4 News Summary. **12.05** *Kirstie*
Handmade Britain. (R) **1.05** *Lim*: *Murphy's Law*
 (1971) *Second World War* drama, starring *Peter
 Weller*. **1.35** *Survivor*. **2.00** *Survivor*. **2.30**
5.00 *Come Dine with Me*. **5.30** *Coach Trip*. **6.00**
The Simpsons. (R) **6.30** *Hollyoaks*. **7.00** *Channel
 4 News*. **7.30** *4thought*. **7.55** *Come Dine with
 Me*. **8.30** *New Girl*. **9.00** *The Bank Job*. **10.00** *The
 Mad Men*. **10.30** *Survivor*. **11.00** *Survivor*.
 (R) **11.55** *10 O'Clock Live*. (R) **12.50** *Lim*: *Winter
 Sun*. **1.00** *Survivor*. **1.30** *Survivor*. **2.00**
 (R) **2.30** *Survivor*. **3.00** *My Name Is Earl*. (R) **3.30**
Handgun. (R) **3.55** *Survivor*. **4.20** (R) **4.35** *Brothers & Sisters*
 (R) **4.55** *Survivor*. **5.20** *Survivor*. **5.50** *Survivor*.
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 (R) **6.00** *Survivor*. **6.30** *Survivor*. **7.00** *Survivor*.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 LIVE! News at 11. With Gabby. 12.10 5 News at Noon. 1.10 5 News at 1. A New Life in the Country. (R) 2.10 5 News at 2. 3.00 5 News at 3. 4.00 5 News at 4. 4.15 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.1 Film: Ladies of the House. (2008) Drama, starring Pam Grier. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbourhood Watch. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 5 News at 7.30. 8.00 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Toughest Truckee; News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Castle. 11.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Eames re-examines the death of her husband. (R) 11.55 Inside Hollywood. 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.50 5 News at 3.30. 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 HomeBusters. (R)

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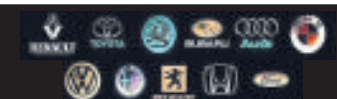
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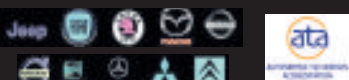
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2006 06 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.4 DYNAMIQUE (Euro 4) MPV 5-dr.FFSH, alloys, 39,754 miles	£3,995
2003 53 Reg	MG MGF 1.8 135 16V Convertible 2-dr. Green, FSH, alloys, 34,000 miles	£3,995
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2002 02 Reg	SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 4WD SOFT TOP 02 MODEL Red and Silver, 65,000 miles, Service History	£3,295
2005 05 Reg	KIA PICANTO 1.1 LX 5-dr. Black, FSH, air con, 62,173 miles	£2,795
2005 05 Reg	MG ZR 1.4 105 TROPHY SE Hatchback 3-dr. Blue, service history, air con, alloys, 66,438 miles	£2,795
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2004 04 Reg	ROVER 25 1.6iL Hatchback 5-dr. FSH, alloys, sunroof, 60,142 miles	£1,995
2002 51 Reg	CITROEN C5 2.2 HDi SX 5-dr. Blue, 117,000 miles, 12 months MOT, service history	£1,695
2001 Y Reg	FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC Petrol. Steel Grey, MOT July 2012	£1,695
2003 52 Reg	ALFA ROMEO 147 2.0 TS LUSSO 3-dr. Red, service history, air con, alloys, 96,423 miles	£1,495

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*Models shown: i10 Classic 1.2 at £6,995 OTR (includes £1,350 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. i20 Classic 1.2 3dr at £8,295 OTR (includes £1,600 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. i30 Classic 1.4 at £10,695 OTR (includes £3,085 customer saving) in Crystal White solid paint at no extra cost. *Whilst stocks last. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. †The Personal Contract Hire advertised is available on i10 Classic 1.2, i20 Classic 1.2 3dr and i30 Classic 1.4 models only. Rentals include VAT, start in the next calendar month and are based on an initial rental of £1,308 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £109 on i10 Classic 1.2, initial rental of £1,548 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £129 on i20 Classic 1.2 3dr, initial rental of £2,148 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £179 on i30 Classic 1.4. The monthly rentals shown are based on a 36 month non-maintained agreement with metallic paint and with a mileage limitation of 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage and other charges may apply dependent on the mileage and condition of the vehicle at the end of the contract. Personal Contract Hire is made available by ALD Automotive Ltd, trading as Hyundai Personal Contract Hire, B516 3JA. Terms and conditions apply. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. When the vehicle is returned it must be in good condition and not have exceeded the agreed mileage otherwise further charges will be incurred. Model and colour are subject to availability. If you choose this personal contract hire offer, you will not own the car. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1 January and 31 March 2012, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/Triples or ask your local Dealer. *terms and conditions apply

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a puppy farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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DAEWOO KALOS SX. 2005, white, 51k, 49k, tax/MoT May, genuine reason for sale, good condition, £1,995 ono, 01384 257698.

DAIHATSU SIRION 1.5SX 5 dr. (08), silver, 23K, warranty March 2013, MoT July, FSH, one owner, £5,000 ono. 01952 419839.

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FORD GALAXY ZETEC. 2002, blue, taxed, MoT, petrol, alarm, parking sensors, tints, very good condition, £1,750. 07880 982193.

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MERCEDES BENZ E220 CDI EXECUTIVE Auto, 2008, 58 reg, 62k, black metallic with black amticco leather. Full Sat Nav and CD system, Bluetooth and SD card. 8 months MoT, 5 months Tax. Good tyres. Excellent throughout. FDSH. Can include extra 4 Winter tyres. £12,995. Shrewsbury 01939 210875

MG ZT SALOON 03 plate, 2.5 petrol auto, 76,000 miles, MoT July, currently sorn. £1,675 ono. 01952 275924.

NISSAN SKYLINE R34. 1998, 80K, white, manual, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, Xcons, RMC, a/c, CD, a/w. £4,750. 07887 691880.

PEUGEOT 206 LX. 1.4 HDI Diesel, 2003, 5dr, low mileage, full MoT, SH, immaculate. £2,295 ono. 01902 766797 or 07710 022891.

PEUGEOT 307XSI HDI. 2004, diesel, black, 3 door, 91K, new cambelt, 750. 07535 556195 (Oswestry).

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RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT. Expression, 2003, Auto, 50k, fish, MoT, gleaming red, truly outstanding. £1,995. 07400 823232.

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CITROEN C2 VTR 1.6. auto, 04 reg, 54,000 miles, yellow, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, MoT pas, tax, alloys, Brierley Hill, £1,499. 07679 403302.

CITROEN XSARA 1.6LX Estate. automatic, 51 reg, air con, electric windows, long MoT, tax, bargain £795. 07552 150833.

FIAT SEICENTO. 2002, 3-door, 3000, 58k, full MoT, 6 months tax, SR, electric, excellent condition. £550. 07882 413544.

FORD FIESTA Zetec. 1.2, 2000, 112,000 miles, long MoT, tax, Reliable, cheap to run, central locking, tax, alloys, stereo, petrol, Wton £750. 07727 253893.

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EXPERTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 30

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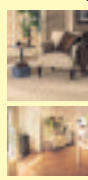
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SPORT

thechronicle

Saxons suffer in Jersey

Jersey 44 Stourbridge Saxons 7
STOURBRIDGE Saxons may have flown south, leaving the frozen Midlands in their wake, but were left chilled as Jersey ran in six tries on their way to a 16th straight win.

Centre partners Donovan Sanders and James Copey caused constant problems to the Stour defence.

But it could have been a different tale had Stourbridge managed to build on their impressive opening.

Good work from the forwards saw them drive their hosts back and when fly-half Chris Reekes' long pass put Jamie Hearn in at the corner, his excellent conversion gave the visitors a 7-0 lead after just five minutes.

Jersey replied with a Ross Broadfoot penalty and the fly-half then sparked a pacy attack which ended with Donovan Sanders feeding James Copey for a try.

There was little to choose between the sides for much of the half but the National One leaders pulled clear.

Weekend matches

Kidderminster & District Football League fixtures
Saturday Premier: Castlecroft Rangers v Arley Kings, Claverley Colts v Kinvor, Lodgefield Park v Birch Coppice, Netherton Ath v Orton Vale, Oldswinford Harriers v Two Gates, Wyre Forest v Claverley.

Birmingham FA Saturday Junior Cup semi-finals: Kings Heath Old Boys v Easy Reds, Old Wulfrunians v Dudley Villa.

Sunday Premier: Alveley Social v New Olympic, Dudley Sports v Horned, Wolverley Ath v Orton Vale, Wordsley AFC v Kingswinford.

Division One: Caves v Wilden Village, Haden Rangers v Chainwire, Stour Park Rangers v Wagon & Horses, Swan Bewdley v Sporting Hawley, WH Sports v Station.

Division Two: Chaddeley Corbett v Atletico Top House, Kewford Eagles v Cally, New Inn Sports v Wall Heath, Stourbridge Rangers v Gornal Wood, White Horse Celtic v Snooks.

Division Three: Arley v Dudley, Darby End Ath v Sporting Club, Maypole Rangers v Plough Dukes, Mossy Rangers v Bewdley Archers, Rock Sports v Gt Western Rangers.

Division Four: Netherton v Clarks, Pockets v Wollaston Lions, Snooks Ath v Labour in Vain, Unity v Vix Bar, Wilden Vill Res v Lakeside Utd, Wyre Forest Harriers v Wolverley Soc.

Division Five: Heta v Hamilton Rangers, Hillgrove v Abberley Vale, Preston 2010 v Queens Head, Royal Exchange Res v Tap House, Star 07 v Withymoor West, The Brit Wollaston v Forest Rangers.

Sunday League Junior Cup round two: Giggill v Stourbridge Glassboys.

Kidderminster Hospital Sunday Junior Cup round three: Bull & Bladder v Bromley, Golden Lion Ath v Harriers Trust, Oakham Utd v Franche Village Club, Phoenix Sports v TS Units, Sporting Oak v Grange Ath, Woodside Utd v La Caruna, Snooks v Stourbridge Rangers.

Kidderminster Hospital Sunday Junior Cup round three: Arley Kings Res v Stourbridge Ath, Netherton Colts Res v Stour Glassboys West, Sporting Club v Pockets, Wednesday Rose & Crown v Golden Lion Ath Res, Withymoor v Kingsley Lions, Wollaston Celtic v Worsley Billy.



Race competitors Christine Hirsch and Julie Washbourne

Runners take on icy test

HUNDREDS of people braved icy conditions to take part in the eight-mile Wyre Forest Multi-Terrain Eight on Sunday.

But it was a competitor from the warmer climes of Guernsey who took first place.

The runners turned out for the 16th staging of the event despite the treacherous snow and ice.

More than 200 people took part in the event over the paths and trails around Callow Hill, near Bewdley.

Those joining in seemed unfazed by the conditions. Runner Alan Hodgkiss, aged 67, from Telford

took part along with Ian Beattie, 54, also from Telford. He was not daunted about the prospect of the ice.

Hodgkiss said: "Once the fast runners get out of the way you can settle in and take it steady."

Christine Hirsch, who had travelled from Moseley, Birmingham, added: "I have run in snow before, but nothing this icy."

"It is the first time I have done this event and there is a good turnout despite the weather."

Keith Silvester, aged 52, from Shrewsbury, added: "The conditions are not brilliant but they

don't seem to have put too many people off."

Each finisher received a medal while all five-year category winners received a prize and a trophy.

Organisers also recognised the first 10 finishers, the first 10 female finishers, as well as the first team and first female team to finish.

Michael Wilesmith, of Guernsey Island AAC, finished in first place with a time of 46 minutes 20 seconds. Robin Biles, of Birmingham Running and Triathlon Club, was second with 49.03 and Gareth Briggs, of Staffordshire Moorlands AC, finished third in 49.15.

Defeat, demos and an apology

Wolves 1 Albion 5

A CRUSHING home defeat at the hands of their local rivals sealed the fate of manager Mick McCarthy.

The abject display even brought a public apology from the Wolves boss for the performance, writes **Tim Nash**.

But his "sorry" after Sunday's game was not enough to save his job – or erase the pain of this humiliation for thousands of angry, disenchanted Wolves fans.

It's been more than a decade since we last saw fans demonstrating outside the ground, when Sir Jack Hayward was spat at.

The nature and magnitude of this thoroughly depressing setback was the trigger for hundreds to gather around the Billy Wright statue after the game and chant for the head of the manager.

There were still fans singing 'We want McCarthy out' more than an hour after the final whistle. One day later they got their wish.

Any defeat hurts, and a loss to Albion deepens the pain. But the manner of this capitulation – to employ the term used by McCarthy afterwards – cast a huge cloud over the club.

Trouble

That they had dragged themselves level by half-time courtesy of Steven Fletcher's fantastically executed 10th goal of the season was a travesty after a truly awful first half. Wayne Hennessey made four fine saves before being wrong-footed by Dave Edwards' deflection off Peter Odemwingie's low shot after 35 minutes.

Wolves started the second half well but Hennessey then undid his good work by dropping Olsson's routine shot to give Albion a 64th-minute lead.

Wolves went close again when Ben Foster made a superb reflex save from Fletcher's header before an effort from Roger Johnson was headed onto the bar by Youssef Mulumbu.

But Wolves were simply crushed. More catastrophic defending allowed Odemwingie his second and Albion's third on 77 when he slid the ball home after Liam Ridgwell's header and Olsson's backheel following James Morrison's corner.

Old boy Keith Andrews drove home a fourth and Odemwingie completed his hat-trick from close range on 88 minutes.

Rivals knocked for six as club heads medal table

SAMURAI Judo Club hit the opposition for six at their Mini-Me Open Championships to top the medals table out of the 20 clubs taking part.

The Kidderminster club won six gold medals and also notched up an impressive 22 silver and bronze, many from players making their contest debuts.

The very first category on the mat, the lightest boys category, saw Samurai start as they meant to go on. James Hemer only just eight, threw players from Droitwich and Codsall for maximum points to reach the final in his competitive debut and then produced the best maximum point throw of the lot against a Gloucester player to take the gold medal.

Defeat against a Berkshire participant ended the hopes of Samurai's Cameron Hobby in the next weight category but he came back well with a maximum point throw against a Shropshire player to take the bronze.

Debutant Tomos Jones was unlucky to lose against a Bromsgrove player after leading for much of the contest but hit back to defeat a player from Dowty by maximum points to claim the bronze.

Kieran Gallacher, another making his competitive debut, was rewarded with a bronze. Charlie Arnall, a few categories higher up, also came away with bronze at his first event.

Joe Edwards was unlucky to be edged out of a place in the showdown, but threw a Kettering player for maximum points to earn bronze.

Aiden Preedy had two very good wins to reach the final of his category, where he trounced a Dudley player on the ground to make it two golds for the Samurai. Mitchell Whitmore won his bronze play-off and Ben Hall added another bronze to the Samurai tally in the weight group above that. Ben Dunn,

By Andrew Haffner

on debut, started hesitantly but beat an Essex player by maximum points and he followed this up in his semi-final with one of the best throws of the day against a Droitwich player to put himself into the final.

This was his toughest contest, against a Stroud player, but Dunn hung on to make it three golds.

Connor Thomson, another competing for the first time, added another bronze to the Samurai tally.

Leah Grosvenor was the first Samurai girl to register a medal. She lost out in the semi-final and had to settle for bronze.

In the next category, the Samurai girls made a clean sweep of all five medals. Ellie Griffiths and Megan Lock reached the final, which Griffiths won to leave Lock with a silver.

Charlotte Relf and Katherine Russell won the bronzes and an extra bronze was also awarded to Sarah Astill, who was up again in the next weight category and claimed a bronze in the play-off.

More good news came when Charlotte Spokes took the other bronze.

Three maximum point wins took competition newcomer Toni Poulson into the final and another superb throw against a Gloucester girl earned her the gold.

A determined Annabel Goodby, in the same category, added the bronze medal.

In the next category, Eleanor Arnall carved up one side of the draw while Poulson went through the other to face each other in the final.

Arnall's explosive power proved decisive.

The last category saw two more Samurai debutants, Angel Wilkes and Keryn Lamb who met in the semi-final, which Wilkes won.

She had to settle for silver, while Lamb won the bronze play-off to leave the girls on three golds, three silvers and eight bronzes and ensuring that the Samurai topped the overall medals table.

For details about the club call 0776 1122977 or visit www.samurai.org.uk



Ellie Griffiths, right, on the attack against Samurai clubmate Katherine Russell. Picture: DE Photos

A golden day for Griffiths

THREE Samurai girls were in action at the Patchway Open in Bristol – and each one finished in the medals.

Briony Griffiths was the first to compete and looked in superb form, winning all four of her contests by maximum point throws to take an emphatic gold.

Even better was the fact that she was using a range of different throws, scoring with four different techniques.

Griffiths found the next weight category up already completed – so entered the one above that. Despite giving away a huge amount of weight, she put in a very creditable performance to take bronze.

Becky Hobby added the other bronze in the same category with a determined display against more experienced girls.

Charlotte Read was the last of the three to compete and had five contests on her way to the bronze medal, which she eventually secured against a Bristol girl.

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Harriers let striker Luke and on-loan winger go

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers have made decisions on the futures of three players in their squad – and allowed striker Luke Medley to leave Aggborough permanently.

He has had his contract, which was up at the end of the season, cancelled by mutual consent and is now free to find another club.

On-loan winger James McQuilkin has also returned to Football League club Hereford after a month's loan and is not expected back at Aggborough.

Harriers defender Tom Marshall is already out at Evo-Stik Southern Premier League big-spenders Brackley and is set to extend his loan.

He has spent two months with the Saints and, with most bases covered at Aggborough, will be allowed to stay with the league leaders. Medley had only returned this week from a month's loan with Woking in the Blue Square North, who decided not to extend his deal.

The 22-year-old also had a spell at Lincoln this season after making just seven starts in 13 appearances for Harriers since joining last summer.

Quality

McQuilkin heads back to Edgar Street after five games, scoring once against York.

But Harriers boss Steve Burr insists it's no reflection on the player.

Burr said: "It would have been nice to have kept James but, with us bringing a couple in during the transfer window, we have decided to let him go back.

"You can see that he is a quality footballer but, as is the case with loan players, he arrived having not played a lot of games.

"So it has been a bit start for him with games being called off.

"But he goes back having contributed while he was here."

Burr added: "We will certainly be keeping an eye on things."

Freeze takes its toll on hockey

ALL Stourport Hockey Club's ladies' section matches fell victim to the weather at the weekend.

The firsts hope to return to action on Saturday away to Birmingham University seconds (2.30pm).

Tributes are paid to gentleman Mike

by Andrew Turton

A TIRELESS worker on and off the pitch for Bewdley Town for more than 30 years has died at the age of 80.

Mike Thompson had been a familiar face behind the scenes at the Wyre Forest non-league club since the 1970s.

In his 60s, he even pulled on his boots to turn out for the team.

The father-of-four was described as a "true gentleman" by club officials who said he would be sadly missed.

Family and friends paid their respects at his funeral at Wyre Forest Cemetery and

Crematorium last week. Bewdley Town vice-chairman Craig Payton said Mr Thompson would visit the ground most days.

"Without him, we would not be where we are today," he said.

Involved

"He was a true gentleman who never let the club down and was always there when we needed him."

Mr Thompson was born in Kent and grew

up in London. He moved to Bewdley in 1976 to become a sales manager for a steel firm.

Mr Thompson, a fan of Tottenham Hotspur, was keen to continue his love for the beautiful game and got involved with his new local team, Bewdley Town.

He had been prepared to step into any role and helped with fundraising and as groundsman.

Mr Thompson regularly volunteered as linesman and took to the field in his 60s when the squad was low on numbers.

He also played for Bewdley Cricket Club and was a founder member of its table-

tennis team. When he retired at the age of 67 he took up golf and played four times a week at Wharton Park Golf Club in Bewdley.

He was diagnosed with a brain tumour last September.

Joyful

Mr Thompson died on January 27 leaving sons Mark, Glen and Derry, and daughter Jenny.

His son Mark, 53, said: "He was an intelligent man, joyful and a real colourful character."

Tongan World Cup star helps coach KCs

WORCESTER Warriors and Tonga international hooker Aleki Lutui has joined the coaching team at Kidderminster Carolians.

The 33-year-old, who won his 40th cap in the victory over France in last year's Rugby World Cup, is keen to obtain his Level Three coaching award and is helping out the Midlands Two West South outfit on a part-time amateur basis.

Lutui, a former policeman, is developing his coaching skills by working alongside Kidderminster's head coach Bryan Smallman and director of rugby Phil Knowles with sessions at their Marlpool Lane headquarters when his commitments with the Aviva Premiership club permit.

"Aleki has agreed to help Kidderminster on a purely amateur basis and he has had a galvanising effect on training numbers and morale at this community club," said Ian Bletcher, the RFU Coach and player development officer for the Midlands West region.

Elite

"He has been extremely humble and willing to share his considerable expertise with the players and coaching staff and the enthusiasm within the coaching team has been really positive.

"It underlines how the elite game can still have considerable effect on the rest and I would not be surprised to see many more Kidderminster members attending Worcester matches to watch their new coach in action.

"Tim Nicholls, of the Rugby Players' Association, has been the driving force behind this and encouraging elite players to gain coaching experience in local clubs in preparation for doing their coaching awards which many professional players now value highly."

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McCARTHY IS AXED AFTER DERBY LOSS

MICK MCCARTHY was sacked as Wolves manager this week as club chairman Steve Morgan said the board had "little or no choice".

The axe fell on Monday, the day after the team suffered their biggest Black Country derby home defeat in 50 years, a 5-1 thrashing by Albion. The club took the "difficult decision" to terminate his contract, which came after a poor run of results left them facing relegation. Pressure on the boss, who is expected to leave with a £1m compensation payout, reached a critical point with the humiliating Molineux loss to the Baggies.

But Wolves' previous alarming sequence of results after early season optimism – just 14 points from the previous possible 66 – was the main concern for club owner Morgan and chief executive Jez Moxey.

Morgan said: "I'm afraid the board thought we had little or no choice.

"Mick and I have had several conversations in recent weeks. He's a good guy and the decision was taken regretfully, but results have not been good enough this season.

"We need to pick ourselves up and be aiming up the league and, hopefully, that's what the new man will take us forward with."

Display

The Albion defeat marked the beginning of a dramatic 24 hours, with 53-year-old McCarthy being forced to apologise to angry fans for the "disgraceful" display.

On Sunday afternoon Moxey and Morgan, who was skiing in Europe, spoke on the phone about McCarthy's future.

Moxey then appeared to hint that evening that McCarthy's position would be safe in the short term, saying the club would use the two-week break before its next game to "regroup".

But at 7am on Monday he

by Tim Nash

arrived at his office at Molineux and spoke to Morgan again when the decision was made to dismiss McCarthy. A short time later Moxey went to see McCarthy at the Compton Park training ground and delivered the news.

Just before 11am, Wolves announced he would be leaving with immediate effect.

The club's statement continued: "The board would like to place on record their sincere thanks and appreciation to Mick McCarthy and he leaves with the very best wishes of everyone connected to the club."

Minutes later, Moxey left the training ground in his Jaguar.

He said later: "We have been on a journey for the last five-and-a-half-years of outstanding success – more than this club has seen in a generation and we have achieved our objectives.

"My entire time is now being devoted towards appointing a new manager."

Midfielder Jamie O'Hara used Twitter to write: "Gutted to see Mick go. Just sorry we couldn't have done better for him. 'Fantastic manager and man and wish him all the best.'"

Sunday's result left McCarthy facing the biggest

How the sacking unfolded

Sunday, 3.30pm-7.30pm: Dialogue is opened between Jez Moxey, Steve Morgan and the board.

7.30pm: Moxey and secretary Richard Skirrow leave Molineux.

7.30pm-10.30pm: Phone calls and emails continue between Moxey, Morgan and the board.

Monday, 7am: Moxey arrives at his Molineux office and calls Morgan. The decision is made to dismiss McCarthy.

7.30am-8.30am: Moxey visits McCarthy at Compton to deliver the news.

9.30am: The players arrive at Compton and are informed McCarthy has been sacked.

9.30am-10.30am: Moxey talks further with McCarthy and assistant manager Terry Connor and prepares a press statement.

crisis of his reign when hundreds of fans protest-ed outside after the game.

The defeat sent Wolves back into the Premier League relegation zone, as attention turned to a replacement for McCarthy, who has been with the club since July 2006.

Best foot forward in the snow



And they're off! Runners tackle the snow and ice as they take part in the Wyre Forest Multi-Terrain Eight race at Bewdley, on Sunday. Report: Page 31

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